GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4279
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
VISIBILITY PROBLEM AT MUMBAI AIRPORT
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai Airport faces visibility problem due to smoke;

(b) if so, whether a number of flights were delayed due to poor visibility during March, 2003;

(c) if so, the details of the flights delayed due to poor visibility caused by smoke during the last one year;

(d) whether the smoke is caused by the burning of garbage, rubber tyres in the slums adjoining the air strip;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to deal with this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a): Yes, Sir.
(b): During March 2003, 6 departures and 18 arrivals were delayed and 5 flights were diverted due to poor visibility.
(c): No records are generally kept regarding flights delayed due to poor visibility caused by smoke. However, it has been informed that no flights were delayed due to smoke during the last one year except in the month of March, 2003.
(d) & (e): Mumbai airport is surrounded by slums and environmental pollution effects are also there. As such, reasons for smoke could be attributed to burning of garbage, rubber tyres etc.
(f): In the interest of security and safety of aircraft operations, matter has been taken up with the State Government authorities for relocating the slums and remove the encroachments near Mumbai airport.